

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Southern California Permitting and Corrective
Action Branch
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201

Project Title: Class 2 Permit Modification for the Hazardous Waste Facility Complex located at the Naval Air Station North Island

Project Location – Specific: Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado/San Diego, California

Project Location – City: San Diego/Coronado

Project Location – County: San Diego

Description of Project:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) approved a Class 2 Permit Modification for the Naval Air Station North Island for changes to three units.

Background

Naval Air Station North Island is an active military facility located in San Diego County, southwest of the city of San Diego on the tip of the Silver Strand Peninsula. It is bounded by the city of Coronado to the east, the Pacific Ocean on the south, San Diego Bay on the north and inlet of San Diego Bay on the west.

A Hazardous Waste Facility Permit was issued by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in 1998 to treat and store hazardous wastes generated on-site and off-site. All hazardous waste permitted treatment and storage units are located within an area known as the Hazardous Waste Facility (HWF) Complex, which is located at the center of the base.

On June 24, 2004, the DTSC conducted an annual inspection and issued a Statement of Violation to the Navy for failure to conduct the tank inspection/maintenance activities as requested by the permit. During the tank maintenance activities, it was found that modification to the waste storage and secondary containment are needed to correct the violations.

Project Description

The Class 2 permit modification approves the following three changes:

1. Use of roll off bins under the Industrial Waste (IW) Filter Press and the Oily Waste (OW) Filter Press. Previously a 55-gallon container was placed under each filter press and the waste in the container was transferred to roll-off bin at the end of the working day. The Navy requested this change to avoid the double handling of filter cake to reduce the potential for spills and to improve the workers' safety.

This modification will increase the quantity of the filter cake in the press areas. The Navy will modify the secondary containment prior to the increased storage. It is also reducing the storage capacity in the CST-1 storage area to compensate the increase of the storage capacity

2. Storage of maintenance waste for 90 days from tank maintenance with prior notification to DTSC. Two 20-gallon portable tanks and four 20-cubic yard roll-off bins will store of maintenance waste that will be treated by the onsite in the IW/OW Treatment Plants, if needed.

The prior permit allowed the Navy to store maintenance related wastes at the IW/OW Container Storage Unit only with a notification to DTSC. The secondary containment will be modified for these temporary tanks prior to these operations occurring. DTSC included in the permit modification a condition requiring that the tanks from which the maintenance related waste originated would not be placed back into service until after the waste is sent offsite for disposal or the waste is put back into the tank for treatment. This permit condition ensures that there is no increase of the total storage capacity during the tank maintenance activities for the HWF Complex but allows the transfer of the waste from tanks to either portable tanks or roll-off bins.

3. Increasing secondary containment for two tank/container storage areas and two loading/unloading areas to conform to the regulations by providing additional capacity for rainfall.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Commander Navy Region Southwest, Naval Air Station North Island

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(A));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____
☒ General Rule (Sec. 15061(b)(3))

Exemption Title: With certainty, no possibility of significant environmental effect.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The placement of two roll-off bins will improve the hazardous waste management practices by reducing the possibility of the spill during the transfer of waste from container to roll-off bins.

The modification to allow the storage of maintenance waste for 90 days at IW/OW container storage unit will allow a routine maintenance to occur in a without DTSC notification. A condition of approval ensures that the quantity of hazardous waste stored does not increase during the tank maintenance period. The secondary containment for this storage capacity is in place.

Increasing the facility's secondary containment for two tank/container storage areas and two loading/unloading areas to conforms to the regulations by providing additional capacity for rainfall. This provides additional protection in the event of a spill during wet weather conditions.

These changes will not have a potential for significant effect to the environment because:

1. There is no change in the types wastes handled or the total volume of waste capacity.
2. All these modification are located within the Hazardous Waste Treatment Complex and its access is restricted from public by guarded gates. In addition, the HWF Complex is also surrounded by a fence and only authorized persons are allowed.
3. Sensitive species are not found in the HWF Complex. The only known ecologically sensitive area near the HWF Complex is the Least Tern nesting area, located approximately 600 feet northwest of the Complex. Given that the nesting area is separated from the facility by a public road and an active runway, no mitigation disturbance by the modification construction activity is necessary.
4. The closest off-base public roadway to the HWF Complex is approximately 4,000 feet to the southeast. No increase in the associated traffic will result because there is no net increase in hazardous waste treatment and storage capacity.

Chia-Rin Yen

Lead Agency Contact Person

Original signed by José Kou on June 7, 2007

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Date

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DTSC Branch Chief Title

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